

Fastest Growing or Most Openings?

Should I focus on occupations with the most new openings or on occupations that are fastest growing?

Job growth can be measured by percent change and numerical change. The fastest- growing occupations do not necessarily provide the largest number of jobs. A larger occupation with slower growth may produce more openings than a smaller occupation with faster growth.

For example, the rate of growth for paralegals is twice that of nurses. But, there are 10 times as many nursing openings as paralegal openings. Generally, it's best to concentrate on occupations with the most openings. However, often when occupations are growing rapidly there may be short-term shortages of workers. BUT, further research would be necessary! Don't just think that a rapidly growing occupation is a sure road to job-seeking success.



Supply-side Economics

Just because an occupation is in this publication, doesn't mean jobs will be easy to find! Here we cover only the "demand" for occupations. The other side of the equation is the supply of workers wanting to work in that occupation. An occupation may create hundreds of new openings every year. But, if thousands of workers are qualified for those positions, lots of workers won't find work in that field.

In other words, look at the **supply** of labor for a particular occupation—not just the demand. We do have some figures on the number of people completing certain programs at public institutions. However, that excludes many, many qualified workers.

So, do your homework. Check with people already employed in the occupation and employers who hire that occupation to determine whether there is an over-or under-supply of workers.

Unfortunately, there's not much worker supply data. But what there is can be found with the following Internet resources:

<http://www.ajb.org/ut/> –Utah's Job Bank

<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/>—Utah Labor Market / Economic Information

<http://jobs.dws.state.ut.us/> –Electronic Job Board (all Utah jobs listed with DWS)

www.bls.gov/ —Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>—Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://firmfind.dws.state.ut.us/pgmain.asp> –Searchable List of Utah Companies

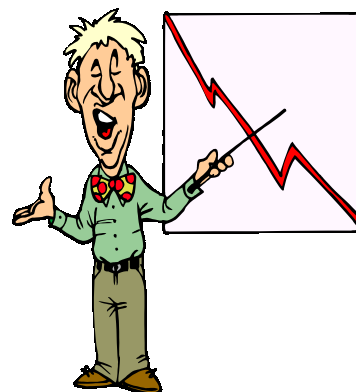
Utah Jobs Where “Supply” May be Larger than “Demand”

Accountants
Cosmetologists
Drafters
Sports Instructors/Coaches
Management Analysts
Marketing/Advertising Manager

Psychologists
Public Relations Specialists
Recreation Workers
Elementary Teachers
Writers/Editors

Economists say:

- ▶ A bachelor's degree is becoming increasingly important in finding a high-paying, in-demand job in Utah.
- ▶ Professional and paraprofessional jobs will produce the most new openings in Utah.
- ▶ Computer-related jobs and occupations in medical fields will show higher-than-average expansion.
- ▶ Short-term jobs show high numbers of openings because of turnover as well as growth.
- ▶ Jobs in agriculture, forestry, and fishing are projected to show the fewest job openings.



\$\$\$ About Wages in Utah \$\$\$

Wages in Utah are generally lower than national figures. Also, workers in nonurban areas can expect to earn lower wages than those along the Wasatch Front.

Published wage rates show the average wage rate for experienced workers. Average wages include workers with 30 years of experience as well as those with three years of experience.

Workers entering the occupation for the first time can expect to earn noticeably lower wages than the average wage listed.

For more information on occupational wages in Utah: <http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/Owi/wages.asp>.